

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111
Serial No. 09/552,593

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend page 1, lines 4 through 8, of the specification as follows:

A1
- - This application is related to co-pending and co-assigned United States Patent Application No. 09/539,707 filed on March 31, 2000, and entitled METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR ESTABLISHING CONTENT-FLEXIBLE CONNECTIONS, the contents of which are hereby incorporated herein be reference. - -

Please amend page 1, line 18 through page 2, line 14, of the specification as follows:

A2
- - Co-pending and co-assigned United States Patent Application No. 09/539,707 filed on March 31, 2000, and entitled METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR ESTABLISHING CONTENT-FLEXIBLE CONNECTIONS teaches a technique for establishing an open connection (OP-N), mapped across a communications network. The OP-N connection is "concatenatable", in that an end user can transport arbitrarily concatenated signal traffic through the OP-N connection. In principle, virtually any combination of concatenated and non-concatenated signals may be used, up to the bandwidth capacity of the OP-N connection. The traffic mixture (i.e., the mix of concatenated and non-concatenated traffic) within the OP-N connection can be selected by the end user to satisfy their requirements, and may be changed by the end user as those requirements change, without requiring re-configuration of the OP-N connection. For example, with an OP-60 connection (i.e. N=60, and the OP-60 therefore has a bandwidth capacity equivalent to an Optical Carrier OC-60 signal) an end user could select a traffic mix of: five STS-12c connections on one day; one OC-48c and 12 (unconcatenated) STS-1 connections on another day; and two STS-24 and two STM-4 connections at some other time. Other traffic combinations are also possible, all at the discretion of the end user, and without intervention from a service provider. - -